

### The Basics of the EU Pet Scheme

The EU (European Union) Pet Scheme sets in place a set of health requirements for the movement of pets within the EU member countries and from other third countries. The set of requirements for pet owners coming from “favored” third countries, where rabies is considered controlled but not absent, are not as complicated and lengthy as those that are not in that category, with some important exceptions (listed toward the end of this handout). **The U.S. is considered a “favored” third country.** [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm\\_third\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm_third_en.htm).

#### Transiting Pets

Pets transiting an EU country for only a few hours, on the way to post or returning to the U.S, are usually not required to meet all of the requirements below. However, a current rabies shot and health certificate will be required of all. We recommend that you determine what contingent plans will be necessary and what facilities will be available if your pet must remain in a European airport for longer than a typical transit time. It is also helpful to ask post what other pet owners have experienced and what advice they have to offer.

#### Pet Passports

An EU Pet Passport *cannot* be obtained until a pet owner lives in an EU country. However, the requirements listed below will be required to obtain one.

#### **A. Basic Requirements for all cats and dogs traveling to EU countries**

The first three requirements are basic for all:

- **The pet must have an ISO microchip.** If the microchip does not comply with ISO Standard 11784 or 11785, the pet owner will need to carry a microchip reader (transponder) for your particular microchip. It is cheaper and harmless for the pet to be re-chipped rather than to carry another transponder. This will also make it easier for future trips. The pet must be micro-chipped *prior* to the current rabies vaccine.
- **The pet must have a current valid rabies vaccine.** Under the least stringent requirements, the vaccine will have to be at least 30 days old (or 21 days, if a booster) and no older than a year. To repeat, E.U. countries require that a rabies vaccination must be administered *after* a microchip implantation. If it is administered prior to the date of the microchip implantation, another rabies vaccination will be required.
- **Pet health certificate.** It is important to check each Post Pet Survey <http://tc.fsi.state.sbu/PITG/PetLanding.aspx> to determine if this health certificate will need to be a specific form and how old the certificate can be. The OBC has some of the translated pet health certificates that various posts have provided. It is also important to check the TM3, the Post Pet Survey or the post directly to see if the health certificate also needs to be certified by a government official such as the APHIS-USDA in the US. The EU website also has a copy of an acceptable health certificate on its site: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/docs/pm\\_non-com\\_model-animal-health-cert\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/docs/pm_non-com_model-animal-health-cert_en.pdf)  
The E.U. also states that a veterinarian certificate will only be accepted if it is issued at least 21 days after the initial (first time) rabies vaccination is administered.

## **B. Additional Requirements for Animals Entering from Outside EU Countries (Third Countries)**

The list of all countries including Third Countries is located on this site:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/list\\_third\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/list_third_en.htm)

- If a pet has been in the US or one of the other “**favored**” third countries for 180 days or longer the titre/titer test will **not** be required.
- If a pet is coming from other than a “favored” third country:
  - A titre antibody blood test will also be required.  
[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs/index_en.htm)  
The blood sample for this titre test cannot be obtained until 30 days after a rabies inoculation is administered. For most EU countries, the required waiting period for the results of this test is at least 90 days. There are very few approved labs around the world where these blood samples can be sent  
[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs/index_en.htm)

## **C. Special Note: As of 2012**

The UK, Sweden, Ireland and Malta now follow the standard EU Pet Scheme requirements. In addition dogs must be treated against the tapeworm Echinococcus. They may still require pets to enter as cargo, however. For exact details, go to the three national websites as well as the EU Pet Scheme website listed earlier in the handout.

- Irish website: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets/>
- Swedish website:  
<http://www.jordbruksverket.se/swedishboardofagriculture/engelskasidor/animals/import/dogscatsandferrets.4.295b2341134f64e5d6280001001.html>
- British website: [www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel)
- Maltese website: [https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/vprd/Pages/travel\\_petmalta.aspx](https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/vprd/Pages/travel_petmalta.aspx)

Before reading through all of the websites above:

- It is best to initially read the pet section of the post TM3 and the Post Pet Survey to determine the specifics for your post. <http://tc.fsi.state.sbu/PITG/PetLanding.aspx>
- You should also find out what airline you will be required to use and to determine the pet shipping policy of that airline.
- Contact the GSO at post to inform this office of your plans to bring a pet. GSO may be able to offer additional advice and provide you with the name of someone who has recently shipped a pet and who may offer additional insight.
- Contact OBC

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